

Serial No. 09/891011

- 6 -

Art Unit: 2182

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 6-9 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Tam. Claims 4, 5, 10-14 and 17-19 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 7 and 15 are currently amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The presently claimed invention distinguishes Tam by reciting that control plane information uniquely associated with one node is mirrored on another node. The Office indicated that Tam teaches mirroring control plane information at col. 4, lines 26-30, 62-67, and col. 5, lines 1-15. Those passages describe the general exchanges of control plane information among network nodes. For example, Tam teaches that each network node exchanges topology database update information, yet some nodes do not require knowledge of certain updates because they only communicate with resources in the data centre. Col. 5, lines 6-15. Clearly, the Tam control plane information is not uniquely associated with any particular network node. In contrast, the presently claimed invention teaches mirroring, i.e., backing up, control plane information that is uniquely associated with another network node. For example, as described in the Specification at page 8, lines 7-16, each Label Information Mirror is a copy of the label information database from a logically adjacent router. The label information database is indicative of network topology and operation from the unique perspective of the router with which the information is associated, and is not generally useful to any other node. One advantage of having a copy on a logically adjacent router is for restoration of the router uniquely associated with the information after the original information has been lost or corrupted. Claims 1, 7 and 15 have been amended to emphasize this distinguishing feature with language supported in the Specification at page 8. In particular, claim 1 distinguishes Tam by reciting "a memory portion operative to mirror control plane information

Serial No. 09/891011

- 7 -

Art Unit: 2182

received from said network node via said at least one port, wherein said control plane information is connectivity information uniquely associated with said network node.” Similarly, claim 7 distinguishes Tam by reciting “said first device is operative to receive said control plane information and store said received control plane information in said first memory, wherein the mirrored control plane information is connectivity information uniquely associated with the second device.” Similarly, claim 15 distinguishes Tam by reciting “storing said control plane information by said first device for facilitating recovery from a control plane failure, wherein the control plane information is connectivity information uniquely associated with said second device.” For the reasons stated above, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 7 and 15 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6, 8-14 and 16-19 are dependent claims which further distinguish the invention, and which are allowable for the same reasons stated above with regard to their respective base claims. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2-6, 8-14 and 16-19 is therefore requested.

Serial No. 09/891011

- 8 -

Art Unit: 2182

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-4001 (X305) so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

June 6, 2005
Date

HA A. Ock
Holmes Anderson, Reg. No. 37,272
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Steubing McGuinness & Manaras LLP
125 Nagog Park
Acton, MA 01720
(978) 264-4001

Docket No. 120-223
Dd: 6/30/2005